

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 GENOA 00268 061108Z

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C O N F I D E N T I A L GENOA 0268

E.O. 11652: GDS

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SUBJ: DC AND OTHER PARTY ELECTORAL PREPARATIONS

BEGIN SUMMARY. AS CAMPAIGN PREPARATIONS BEGIN, LIGURIAN REGIONAL DC IS PLANNING SUBSTANTIAL REVISION OF ITS PARLIAMENTARY ELECTORAL LISTS. PARTY WILL BE HURT, HOWEVER, BY SHORTAGE OF MONEY AND LACK OF CHURCH AND LABOR SUPPORT. PSI MENACED BY SERIOUS BRIBERY SCANDAL. SMALL LAY PARTIES FEAR DIFFICULTIES OF MANAGING CONCURRENT NATIONAL AND MUNICIPAL CAMPAIGNS. PCI HAS ALREADY LAID SOLID PROPAGANDA GROUNDWORK, AND IS READYING ELECTORAL LISTS WITH MANY NEW FACES. COMMUNISTS MUST BE CONSIDERED EARLY FAVORITES. END SUMMARY.

1. REGIONAL DC ENJOYS SUBSTANTIAL UNITY AS IT ENTERS ELECTION CAMPAIGN. THE PRO-ZACCAGNINI MAJORITY (ABOUT 65 PERCENT) AND

PAGE TWO RUFLAAA0266 C O N F I D E N T I A L

THE MINORITY CENTER FORCES HAVE AVOIDED STRIFE. TRADITIONAL LEADERS SUCH AS ON. TAVIANI AND ON. LUCIFREDI ARE SETTING EXAMPLE FOR PARTY RENEWAL. THE FORMER WILL RUN FOR SENATE, WHILE LATTER IS RETIRING. PARTY AND JOURNALISTIC SOURCES ALSO FORESEE POSSIBLE RETIREMENT OF SENATORS BO, SPORA, VARALDO AND ZACCARI AND OF DEPUTIES AMADEO, REVELLI AND, LESS CERTAIN, BOFFARDI. ON. RUSSO, LEADER IN SAVONA, ALSO CONTEMPLATING SENATE RACE. INFORMATIONS SO FAR INDICATES THAT VACANCIES

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 GENOA 00268 061108Z

CREATED ON LISTS WILL GO TO MIDDLE-GENERATION PEOPLE (AGE

40-50) ALREADY WELL-KNOWN ON REGIONAL LEVEL. ALTHOUGH POTENTIAL CANDIDATES ARE NOT YOUNG EXCEPT PERHAPS IN ITALIAN POLITICAL TERMS, THEY DO PRESENT FRESH AND PROGRESSIVE IMAGES. NEGATIVE FACTOR IS THAT MOST POTENTIAL CANDIDATES ARE ALREADY IDENTIFIED WITH 1975 DC REGIONAL DEFEAT.

2. DC'S MAIN PROBLEM IS THAT DURING CAMPAIGN IT WILL HAVE LITTLE SUPPORT FROM THE CHURCH OR FROM LABOR. GENOA'S CARDINAL SIRI VIEWS ON TAVIANI'S LEFTWARD LEANINGS AS QUOTE UNACCEPTABLE UNQUOTE. THE CARDINAL'S OWN CONSERVATIVE AND DOCTRINAIRE IMAGE WOULD IN ANY CASE LIMIT HIS POLITICAL EFFECTIVENESS. GENOA CISL PROVINCIAL SECRETARY DENYS REPORTS THAT HE WILL RUN

PAGE THREE RUFLAAA0266 C O N F I D E N T I A L

FOR CHAMBER OF DEPUTIES ON DC LIST. HE VIEWS DC AS IRRELEVANT TO WORKER INTERESTS AND TOLD US UNEQUIVOCALLY THAT CISL WILL GIVE DC NO RPT NO HELP IN GENOA. DC WILL GET SOME HELP FROM 3. ALL LOCAL DC LEADERS CITE FINANCES AND ABSENCE OF A NEWSPAPER VOICE AS PROBLEMS. ALTHOUGH LOCAL DC LEADERS DON'T LACK PERQUISITES SUCH AS CHAUFFERED CARS, THE PARTY IS EVIDENTLY UNABLE TO EMPLOY MORE THAN A HANDFUL OF FUNCTIONARIES OR TO RUN A PROPAGANDA CAMPAIGN WORTHY OF THE NAME.

4. THE TOP LEADERSHIP OF THE REGIONAL PSI IS MENACED BY THE SANTO STEFANO AL MARE BRIBERY SCANDAL. DEMARTINO FACTION LEADER PAOLO MACHIAVELLI RESIGNED MAY4 FROM POSITIONS AS PRESIDENT OF REGIONAL COUNCIL AND MEMBER OF PSI REGIONAL SECRETARIAT. RELIABLE SOURCES REPORT THAT CURRENT INVESTIGATION WILL RESULT IN ARREST OF MACHIAVELLI AND PERHAPS OTHER PSI LEADERS. ARRESTS WOULD NATURALLY DIM SERIOUSLY THE PSI'S OTHERWISE BRIGHT ELECTORAL PROSPECTS.

5. AS PREVIOUSLY REPORTED, PCI HAS LONG FEARED THAT ITS COALITION PARTNER, THE PSI, WOULD TAINT LIGURIAN LEFTIST ADMINISTRATIONS

PAGE 4 RUFLAAA0266 C O N F I D E N T I A L

WITH SCANDAL. NOW THAT THESE FEARS HAVE BEEN REALIZED, AND THE SURVIVAL OF THE PCI-PSI REGIONAL GOVERNMENT IS THREATENED, THE PCI WILL TRY TO LIMIT DAMAGES. SO FAR, COMMUNIST SOURCES HAVE CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 GENOA 00268 061108Z

REFUSED COMMENT ON THE SCANDAL. THERE HAS BEEN NO HINT THAT ANY SIGNIFICANT PCI LEADER WAS INVOLVED IN WRONGDOING. THE PCI WILL PROBABLY CONTINUE TO EMPHASIZE BOTH THE NEED FOR A BROADER-BASED GOVERNING MAJORITY AND ITS OWN CLEAN HANDS. THE SCANDAL MIGHT ACTUALLY PROMPT SOME PSI VOTERS TO SWITCH TO THE PCI. THE COMMUNISTS ARE REPORTEDLY PLANNING TO REPLACE 50 PERCENT OF THEIR GENOA CITY COUNCILMEN AND SEVERAL NATIONAL DEPUTIES. ANOTHER BIG QUESTION OF PCI AND PSI IS HOW MUCH OF LEFTIST VOTE

WILL BE SIPHONED OFF BY PDUP, LOTTA CONTINUA AND RADICAL PARTY.  
ADELE FACCIO WILL HEAD LIGURIAN RADICAL ELECTORAL LIST.  
6. SMALLER LAY PARTIES, ESPECIALLY PSDI AND PLI, ARE FEARFUL OF  
LOSING VOTES TO DC IF LATTER PORTRAYS ITSELF AS LAST BULWARK  
AGAINST PCI. ALSO, SMALL PARTIES WILL HAVE DIFFICULTY RUNNING  
CONCURRENT NATIONAL AND MUNICIPAL CAMPAIGNS. FUNDS ARE SHORT  
AND CANDIDATES WILL HAVE TO RUN IN TWO ELECTIONS.  
7. CONCLUSION AT THIS STAGE IS THAT UNLESS BRIBERY SCANDAL  
DESTROYS GOOD PUBLIC IMAGE OF HONESTY AND MODERATION BUILY UP

PAGE 5 RUFLAAA02266 C O N F I D E N T I A L  
BY PCI, THAT PARTY WILL ADD TO ITS JUNE 1975 WINNINGS.  
SOCIALISTS WILL ALMOST CERTAINLY BE HURT BY THE SCANDAL. THE DC  
MIGHT STABILIZE AT LAST YEAR'S LEVEL, BUT ONLY AT EXPENSE OF  
PSDI AND PLI. BRUNO

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